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# LIME ANTHRACNOSE

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Lime anthracnose, caused by the fungus Gloeosporium limetticolum Clausen, was first described from California in 1912 (2). The disease has also been reported from Florida and the West Indies (1,3,4). The Key (West Indian or Mexican) lime and the Dominican thornless lime are the only two varieties known to be susceptible to anthracnose (4).

SYMPTOMS. The fungus attacks fruit, leaves, twigs, and blooms. On young, rapidly growing fruits the effect varies from shallow spots to deep, depressed cankers (Fig. 1). This may cause the young fruit to abscise or become misshapen. After the fruit is three-fourths grown, it becomes immune to further attack. Diseased flower buds turn brown and fall before opening. Infected young shoots wilt and eventually die back several inches (4). Characteristic tan, circular to oval spots develop on leaves. As the spots mature, the center often falls out giving a shot-hole appearance (Fig. 2). Heavily infected leaves may be misshapen.

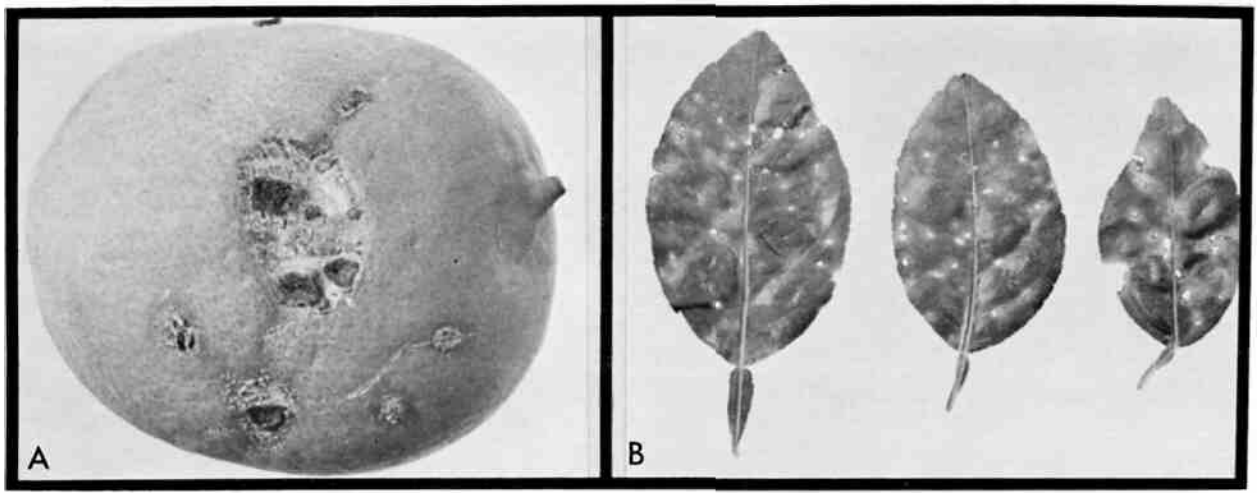


Fig. 1. Lime anthracnose, Gloeosporium limetticolum Clausen, on fruit (A) and leaves (B) of West India Key lime, Citrus aurantifolia (Christm.) Swingle.

CONTROL. Lime anthracnose can be controlled with neutral copper fungicide. Young expanding leaves and flowers must be thoroughly covered with the fungicide. Usually two or three applications are required at intervals of several weeks during the flush period (4).

## Literature Cited

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3. Fawcett, H. S. 1937. Citrus diseases and their control. McGraw-Hill Book. Co., Inc., New York. 656 p.
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